

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-07

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-03 CPR-01 L-02 PM-03 NSC-07 SP-02

SS-14 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DRC-01 /052 W

----- 034702

R 080333Z OCT 74

FM AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0128

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT MORESBY 0244

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PP

SUBJECT: STATUS OF NEW PNG OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

REF: PORT MORESBY 243

1. DURING A CONVERSATION ON OCTOBER 2 WITH JOHN HOLLOWAY, COUNSELOR, AUSTRALIAN OFFICE, ON A DIFFERENT SUBJECT, I MENTIONED THAT GPNG WANTED TO GIVE MATANE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER IN WASHINGTON. HOLLOWAY SAID THAT INDONESIANS HAD AGREED TO LET PNG REPRESENTATIVE IN JAKARTA USE TITLE OF COMMISSIONER, BUT ADDED THAT IT WAS NOT REALLY PROPER. HOLLOWAY SAID GOA HAD POINTED OUT TO GOI THAT USE OF THIS TITLE HAD ALWAYS BEEN CONFINED TO COMMONWEALTH IN PAST. GOI REPLIED BY ASKING WHAT DIFFERENCE WOULD IT MAKE IF, FOR ONLY A SHORT PERIOD, THE PNG REP USED THE TITLE HIS GOVERNMENT WANTED HIM TO USE. THE AUSTRALIANS APPARENTLY ACQUIESCED.

2. I SAID TO HOLLOWAY IT APPEARED THAT THE PNG COMMISSION (OR OFFICE) IN WASHINGTON WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO DFRT IN PORT MORESBY IN MOST MATTERS. HOLLOWAY REPLIED THAT THE PNG OFFICE WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE TO PORT MORESBY FOR DAY TO DAY OPERATIONS, BUT ON QUESTION OF FOREIGN POLICY IT WOULD RECOGNIZE THE PRIMACY OF THE
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AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR IN WASHINGTON.

3. THIS FORMULATION IS DIFFERENT FROM CONROY'S
VERSION IN REFTEL. I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN
KNOWING HOW THE GOA IN CANBERRA VIEWS THE STATUS
OF THE PNG OFFICE IN WASHINGTON. I HAVE NOTED ON
OTHER OCCASIONS THAT, IN THIS STICKY AREA, THE
AUSTRALIAN OFFICE'S VIEWS HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN
REVERSED BY CANBERRA.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN
THE GPNG AND THE AUSTRALIAN OFFICE RE THE RELATION-
SHIP OF THE PNG COMMISSION IN WASHINGTON TO THE
AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR. I WOULD HOPE THAT WHATEVER
ASSURANCES WE GIVE (PARA 6 AND 7 OF REFTEL)
WOULD BE ORAL AND WOULD BE KEPT AS VAGUE AS
POSSIBLE.
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Message Attributes

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